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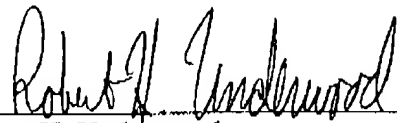
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTSClaim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

16. (Three Times Amended) An isolated human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein said protein or variant can bind one or more chemokines and can mediate cellular signalling and/or a cellular response in response thereto, and wherein said protein or variant is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes [under high stringency conditions] to a second nucleic acid [and the sequence of said second nucleic acid is] selected from the group consisting of [Figure 1 () the complement of SEQ ID NO:1]] and [a sequence complementary to Figure 1 () the complement of the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO:1]] under high stringency wash conditions of 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for ten minutes followed by two washes in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for thirty minutes and a final wash in 0.5X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for ten minutes.
61. (Twice Amended) A fusion protein comprising a human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein said CXCR3 protein or variant can bind one or more chemokines and can mediate cellular signalling and/or a cellular response in response thereto, and wherein said CXCR3 protein or variant is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes [under high stringency conditions] to a second nucleic acid [and the sequence of said second nucleic acid is] selected from the group consisting of [Figure 1 () the complement of SEQ ID NO:1]] and [a sequence complementary to Figure 1 () the complement of the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO:1]] under high stringency wash conditions of 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for ten minutes followed by two washes in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for thirty minutes and a final wash in 0.5X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for ten minutes.